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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/675,064	09/30/2003	Gary D. Barnett	1671-0275	5866

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EXAMINER

SNOW, BRUCE EDWARD

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3738

DATE MAILED: 01/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/675,064

Applicant(s)

BARNETT ET AL.

Examiner

Bruce E. Snow

Art Unit

3738

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 December 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 12, 13, 17 and 21-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 12, 13 and 17 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 12, 13, and 17 are allowed.

Claims 23 and 24 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 21-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding at least claims 21 and 28, applicant is purposely confusing the couplers terminology. The coupler names are not consistent not supported.

Claim 22 is indefinite, the retroversion component does not have a fifth coupler. What is the "additional bone component"? Is it supported in the specification?

Claim 29, what is the "additional bone component"? This seems to be different than claim 22.

Specification

The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: first coupler, second coupler, etc are not supported in the specification.

As far as the scope of the claims can be determined, the following art rejections are made of record.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting

directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000.

Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 21 and 25-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hickey (5,645,607).

Hickey teaches:

21. (New) A modular long bone prosthesis, comprising:

a proximal component 40 having a first coupler 42 at a proximal end thereof and a second coupler (including element 47) at a distal end thereof,

a retroversion component 30 having third coupler 50 at a proximal end thereof and a fourth coupler 32 at a distal end thereof, said third coupler being configured to mate with said second coupler of said proximal component so as to retain said retroversion component in fixed relation to said proximal component,

a head component 25 having a fifth coupler configured to mate with the first coupler of said proximal component so as to retain said head component in fixed relation to said proximal component,

wherein said one of said proximal component and said retroversion component has a tab 48, and wherein the other one of said proximal component and said retroversion component has a first slot 39 and a second slot 39,

wherein said proximal component and said retroversion component are configurable between a right long bone mode (see figure 5) and a left long bone mode (see figure 6),

wherein when in said right long bone mode (i) said second coupler of said proximal component is positioned in mating relationship with said third coupler of said retroversion component, (ii) said tab is positioned in said first slot, and (iii) no tab is positioned in said second slot, and

wherein when in said left long bone mode (i) said second coupler of said proximal component is positioned in mating relationship with said third coupler of said retroversion component, (ii) said tab is positioned in said second slot, and (iii) no tab is positioned in said first slot.

Claim 22, see stem 12.

Claims 28, 29, 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Gray, Jr. et al (6,149,687).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 21, 26, and 28-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gray, Jr. et al (6,149,687).

Gray et al teaches:

21. (New) A modular long bone prosthesis, comprising:

a proximal component 32 having a second coupler 36 at a distal end thereof,

a retroversion component 10 having third coupler (bolt) at a proximal end thereof and a fourth coupler (element 10 has a larger diameter at the bottom interpreted as the fourth coupler capable of coupling to a bone canal centering anchor) at a distal end thereof, said third coupler being configured to mate with said second coupler of said proximal component so as to retain said retroversion component in fixed relation to said proximal component,

wherein said one of said proximal component and said retroversion component has a tab 28, and wherein the other one of said proximal component and said retroversion component has a first slot 48 and a second slot 46,

wherein said proximal component and said retroversion component are configurable between a right long bone mode and a left long bone mode (see figures 3 and 4),

wherein when in said right long bone mode (i) said second coupler of said proximal component is positioned in mating relationship with said third coupler of said retroversion component, (ii) said tab is positioned in said first slot, and (iii) no tab is positioned in said second slot, and

wherein when in said left long bone mode (i) said second coupler of said proximal component is positioned in mating relationship with said third coupler of said retroversion component, (ii) said tab is positioned in said second slot, and (iii) no tab is positioned in said first slot.

However, Gray et al is unclear regarding a head component and a coupling means (first and fifth couplers). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to include a head component (insert or articulating component) and a coupling means such that the system could be fully sized and trialed.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

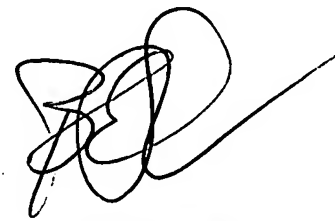
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bruce E. Snow whose telephone number is (571) 272-4759. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Corrine McDermott can be reached on (571) 272-4754. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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BRUCE SNOW
PRIMARY EXAMINER